

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING, 1 JUNE, 2023

Present: Councillors A Stirling (Chair), H Powell (Vice Chair), J Adams, N Baillie, D Beagrie, S Brown, E Durno, F Joji, A Kloppert (as substitute for A Evison) S Payne, G Reynolds, H Smith, I Taylor and I Walker.

Apology: Councillor A Evison.

Officers: Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services; Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership; Head of Communities and Partnerships; Head of Housing; Business Planning and Improvement Manager (Fiona McCallum); Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie, Police Scotland; Chief Inspector Chris Kerr, Police Scotland; Housing Manager (Housing and Building Standards); Service Manager (Live Life Aberdeenshire) (John Cornfield); Partnership Manager North, Health and Social Care Partnership; Mental Health and Learning Disability Manager (Vicky Henderson); Business Planning and Improvement Manger (Neil Watts); Business Project Officer (Lynda Firth); Service Development Officer (Housing) (Tracy Noles); Business Partner (Finance) (Rebecca Meiklejohn); Principal Solicitor (Governance) (Martin Ingram); and Senior Committee Officer (Niall David).

In attendance: Martin McCathie; Kirsty Ngala; and Elaine McLean, all Aberdeenshire Council Tenants Group (Item 10); and Councillors S Adams and R Cassie (Items 12 and 13)

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interests were declared.

2. RESOLUTIONS

A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and

- (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an Integrated Impact Assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

B. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items specified below so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the undernoted paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
20	8 & 10
21	8 & 10
22	8
23	8
24	8

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 30 MARCH, 2023

The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 30 March, 2023 had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record.

4. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services which updated Members on the progress made against outstanding actions agreed at previous meetings of the Communities Committee.

The Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services provided updates and thereafter, the Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the position with regard to the outstanding actions from previous meetings and also those which had been completed since the last meeting.

5. COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - BUDGET 2023/24

There was circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which provided details of the Revenue and Capital budgets pertaining to the services which fell under the remit of Communities Committee for the financial year 2023/24.

The report highlighted that the Communities Committee had responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and scrutinising of the Council's policy and making decisions on matters relating to the functions which fell under their remit. The report set out the financial information for these services to enable this process.

The report went on to remind Members that Full Council approved the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital budgets at the meeting on 9 March, 2023 as part of agreeing

the wider Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Appendix A to the report set out the budget information for the services for which the Communities Committee had responsibility, and the arrangements for monitoring and reporting on the financial performance of these services during 2023/24.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the Revenue and Capital Budgets pertaining to the Communities Committee for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A;
- (2) to note the Financial Risks and Assumptions associated with these budgets;
- (3) to note the agreed Budget Savings associated with these budgets and to agree that updates on achievement of these would be reported to future Committees;
- (4) to note the Earmarked Reserves associated with this Committee and their use;
- (5) that Financial Performance reports relating to Revenue and Capital expenditure, achievement of savings and use of reserves for the financial year 2023/24 would be reported to the Communities Committee in accordance with Financial Regulations; and
- (6) that information be emailed to the Committee on the use so far in this financial year of the Risk and Inflation Reserve by the Council in response to any budgetary pressures arising from risks materialising which could not be mitigated by Services.

6. POLICE SCOTLAND – VERBAL UPDATE

Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie, North East Divisional Commander, provided a verbal update to the Committee on Police Scotland matters of relevance to the Aberdeenshire Council area.

In particular he drew attention to the recent announcement at the Scottish Police Authority board meeting on 25 May, 2023 when the Chief Constable, Sir Iain Livingstone, addressed the issue of institutional discrimination in policing. He highlighted that the Chief Constable was clear that publicly acknowledging these institutional issues existed was essential to Police Scotland's commitment to championing equality and becoming an anti-racist service. It was also critical to their determination to lead wider change in society. Other matters on which an update was provided included: Police Scotland budgetary and staffing issues; road user safety; violence in crime; rural partnership initiatives; Operation Protector, which was a multi-agency approach designed to target criminals involved in illegal waste activity; and the disclosure scheme for tackling domestic violence.

There followed a question and answer session.

The Committee concurred with the Chair in thanking Chief Superintendent Mackie for an informative update.

7. HOUSING VOIDS MONITORING

There was circulated a report dated 17 May, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which provided an update on the current position with Housing Voids, to obtain agreement to the performance targets set for 2023/24.

The report highlighted that it was recognised that a number of factors had influenced void relet times and void rent loss. Scottish local authorities had experienced a significant increase in average relet times since the beginning of the pandemic. Rent loss in Aberdeenshire was higher than other Local Authority providers, at 2.7% in Quarter 4 of 2021/22, compared with the Scottish average rent loss for the same period being 1.9%.

The report went on to explain that Aberdeenshire Council was following a similar trend until Quarter 3 of 2021/22, where rent loss in Aberdeenshire decreased while the national average continued to increase. This demonstrated that Aberdeenshire Council had improved how it performed in comparison to other local authorities. The variance between Aberdeenshire and the Scottish average increased to 1.3% in 2020/21, but by Quarter 3 (2021/22) this had reduced to 0.8% and remained at that level in Quarter 4 (2021/22). Void rent loss in Aberdeenshire had reduced substantially since the end of 2021/22. Scottish average results for 2022/23 were not currently available for comparison, but Aberdeenshire figures had improved to 2.1% in Quarter 4 of 2022/23, and were 2% for the year as a whole. This equalled a 25% improvement in performance in 2022/23, which was a significant achievement.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the update provided relating to processing housing voids (empty properties); and
- (2) the performance targets for 2023/24, as outlined in the report.

8. HOUSING FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE LINKED REPORT: QUARTER 4 2022/23

There was circulated a report dated 15 May, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which provided information on the Housing Service's performance in terms of finance and key performance indicators of service delivery.

The report explained that it was intended to support the Committee in their role of scrutinising performance related to the Housing Service, both in terms of performance by the Service related to the Council Priorities, and in terms of financial information regarding income and expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account. The reporting format combined information related to financial and service performance into a single document, to provide greater clarity and demonstrate the links between financial and service performance.

The report provided detail on Revenue Financial Performance, Capital Financial Performance and Reserves Financial Performance.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the performance and financial information provided;
- (2) to instruct the Directors of Environment and Infrastructure Services and Business Services to continue to report Housing Performance and Financial information to Committee on a regular basis; and
- (3) that future reports be provided to all Area Committee on the management of local Housing Revenue Account assets, such as garages.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT: REVIEW OF GARDEN AND OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE

There was circulated a report dated 4 May, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which provided an update on the review of the maintenance of Gardens and Open Spaces held within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The report recommended that options be considered within the context of the HRA Business Plan Review to allow for detailed consultation with tenants, Committee and Stakeholders.

The report explained that the review of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan offered an opportunity to engage with tenants and service users in respect of future provision. A comprehensive consultation process would be delivered in conjunction with the Council's Survey and Research consultants. This process would be overseen by the Member Officer Working Group with tenant representative involvement. Final recommendations would be considered by the Communities Committee.

The Committee **agreed** that officers include options for the future maintenance of Gardens and Open Spaces in the Review of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

10. REGISTERED TENANT ORGANISATION APPLICATION

There was circulated a report dated 4 May, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which explained that the Housing Service had received an application from "Aberdeenshire Council Tenants Group" (ACTG) to become a Registered Tenant Organisation (RTO).

The report explained that ACTG had formed a committee and had been working with the Housing Service on the basis of a recognised (unregistered) Tenant Group whilst completing work to apply for formal registration. ACTG and the Tenant Participation Team had worked together to ensure the constitution was comprehensive and covered all required aspects as required for RTO status to be granted.

Martin McCathie, Chair, Kirsty Ngala, Vice Chair and Elaine McLean, Treasurer, from ACTG took part in this item and in delivering a presentation to the Committee which explained that they proposed the following fundraisers: - donations via website; prize squares (advertised through their Facebook page); income from sales of items such as keyrings, pens, mugs, t-shirts, fridge magnets, coasters, etc; and applications for community funding through external organisations. ACTG proposed the funding would be used for activities such as: a peer led phone line; physical goods; and fees relating to booking of spaces for meetings. ACTG proposed to represent the whole of Aberdeenshire. They would do this by advertising via

Facebook, website, leaflet drops, in-person events, teaming up with Housing and other Council Services at events such as roadshows or community days.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the application request;
- (2) to approve the support of the Housing Service;
- (3) that ACTG be requested to approve that the Council check their constitution to ensure appropriate equalities measures and language were in place; and
- (4) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Communities Committee on the potential inclusion of 2 Tenant Organisation representatives as non-voting Members of the Communities Committee.

11. HOUSING AND BUILDING STANDARDS BUSINESS PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 10 April, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services which presented for consideration and approval the Heads of Service Business Plan for the Housing and Building Standards Service and detailed the direction each of the Services would take in support of the Strategic Priorities set out in the Council Plan 2022 to 2027.

The report explained that following approval of the Council Plan 2022 to 2027, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) agreed that Directorate Plans would be discontinued, and Head of Service Business Plans would be developed to set out the scope and standard of work the Service would deliver, along with clear work programmes which will achieve improvements against performance measures.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) endorse the Heads of Service Business Plans, detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) approve the performance measures detailed in each Business Plan; and
- (3) instruct the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to present Business Plan performance reports to the Committee on a six-monthly basis, in line with the Performance Management Framework, evidencing progress and performance in support of the Council Plan 2022-27 commencing from Quarter 1 2023/24.

12. ANNUAL SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT

There was circulated a report dated 10 May, 2023, by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, which (1) advised that in terms of the Scheme of Governance, each Area and Policy Committee should be provided with an annual report outlining its scrutiny activity and asking the Committee to monitor its progress and consider the effectiveness of its scrutiny role for the previous financial year, and (2) outlined areas for inclusion in the scrutiny programme for the coming year.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee were in attendance and welcomed the consideration by the Committee of the scrutiny activity that had taken place during the last financial year.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed** to note:-

- (1) the activities detailed within the report; and
- (2) that the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services arrange a workshop with Members to identify a Scrutiny Improvement Programme for the 2023/2024 financial year; the workshop to include focus on “briefing notes”, in particular their purpose, appropriateness and recording of their outcomes.

13. DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

There was circulated a report dated 27 April, 2023, by the Director of Business Services seeking consideration and comment on the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 prior to its submission to the Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 for final approval.

The report advised that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was a mandatory requirement on local government bodies and was published by the Council with its annual accounts and the draft Statement was presented to the Committee for consideration and comment, particularly around the Committee’s contribution to delivering good governance.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee were in attendance and the Chair provided an update on the work of the Audit Committee and how it could work together with the Communities Committee to achieve the best outcomes for communities, by ensuring that essential internal audit recommendations were progressed efficiently and closed off as quickly as possible, and that improvement actions were completed on time, and that the Committees were working collectively to provide assurance on compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance.

After consideration of the report, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the draft Annual Governance Statement (“the draft Statement”), attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) note that the draft Statement was a work in progress and further amendments would be made, as detailed in the report;
- (3) note that the draft Statement would be presented to all other Policy Committees and would be subject to change prior to presentation and sign off at Audit Committee meeting on 6 July, 2023;
- (4) note that the Annual Scrutiny Report formed an integral part of the review of annual effectiveness activities and would be included within the Statement;
- (5) confirm that it had complied with the Code of Corporate Governance and ensured that the Code was operating effectively in practice; and

- (6) equalities being incorporated more explicitly into the Statement, including a link to the Act.

14. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 16 May, 2023 by the Director of Business Services seeking consideration and comment on the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 prior to its submission to the Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 for final approval.

Members were advised that progress continued to be made across the Plan with the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2021/22 and the Best Value Action Plan 2022 having no overdue actions. There was one overdue action in the Best Value 2020 plan which related to Housing relets. The Housing Service had advised that due to subsequent external events including the cost of living crisis they would be seeking approval to extend the due date of this action when the Best Value Plan was considered by Full Council on 9 March 2023. 45 actions were complete, which was an increase from 41 when the Plan was last considered by the Committee. The number of overdue actions had increased to four, however, that work was progressing at pace in relation to the overdue actions and it was anticipated that those would be complete for the next reporting cycle in June 2023.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the Corporate Improvement Plan (“the Plan”), attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) note that the Plan had been considered by the meeting of the Audit Committee on 22 March, 2023;
- (3) receive six-monthly updates; and
- (4) percentage figures in the Plan to also, where appropriate and possible, include a monetary figure or value.

15. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE FOR 2022/23

There was circulated a report dated 10 May, 2023, by the Director of Education and Children’s Services which presented for consideration Live Life Aberdeenshire’s Performance Update for the financial year 2022/23, demonstrating progress in delivery of the key priorities of the Council and the current Business Plan for Live Life Aberdeenshire 2021 to 2023.

The report explained that the Annual Performance Update demonstrated the vibrancy of Live Life Aberdeenshire’s service, including the fun and enjoyment delivered to improve health and wellbeing in Aberdeenshire communities and the economic return provided for the Council. It was a comprehensive overview of Live Life Aberdeenshire delivery in the past twelve months across culture and sport. There were some areas specifically highlighted in the covering report, namely Cycle Aberdeenshire, Live Life Essentials, Community Led Walks and the Summer of Play.

Following discussion, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the Live Life Aberdeenshire Performance Update, as detailed in Appendix A to the report;
- (2) that a detailed report be submitted to a future meeting on halls; and
- (3) that reports be submitted to Area Committees with appropriate area specific information.

16. SCRUTINY REFERRAL – ASSURANCE REVIEW OF INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD GOVERNANCE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 22 March, 2023 (Item 6), there was circulated a report dated 2 May, 2023, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which requested that the Committee consider the referral from the Audit Committee that the Committee Review Process be applied in respect of areas of service improvement on the matter of 'Assurance Review of IJB (Integration Joint Board) Governance', as detailed in Internal Audit report 2312.

The report explained that at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 22 March, 2023, an Internal Audit report was received and considered in relation to the 'Assurance Review of IJB Governance'. The report identified a Net Risk Rating of Major, with Limited Assurance provided, with improvement required to the system of governance, risk management and control to effectively manage risks to the achievement of objectives in the area audited. The relevant extract of the report and the minute of the Audit Committee meeting were detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to conduct the Committee Review Process in respect of the matter of service delivery identified by the Audit Committee for improvement;
- (2) that the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership report to the Committee with the Stage 1 Report on 7 September, 2023; and
- (3) to instruct the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to report to Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 with the Committee's decision.

17. SCRUTINY REFERRAL – INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Audit Committee of 22 March, 2023 (Item 6), there was circulated a report dated 2 May, 2023 by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which requested that the Committee consider the referral from the Audit Committee that the Committee Review Process be applied in respect of areas of service improvement on the matter of 'IJB Transformational Projects', as detailed in Internal Audit report 2212.

The report explained that at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 22 March, 2023, an Internal Audit report was received and considered in relation to 'IJB Transformational Projects'. The Audit Committee identified a matter of service delivery for improvement, the objective of the audit being to provide assurance that the IJB is continuing to make progress to ensure the success of its transformation agenda. The relevant extract of the report and the minute of the Audit Committee meeting were contained in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to conduct the Committee Review Process in respect of the matter of service delivery identified by the Audit Committee for improvement;
- (2) that the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership report to the Committee with the Stage 1 Report on 7 September, 2023; and
- (3) to instruct the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to report to Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 with the Committee's decision.

18. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP – COMMITTEE REVIEW PROCESS STAGE 2

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of 16 February, 2023 (Item 6) and 30 March, 2023 (Item 16) there was circulated a report dated 6 May, 2023, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which provided an update on progress against the action plan arising from Internal Audit Report 2301 'Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) Governance Arrangements', following previous discussion at meetings of the Communities Committee on 16 February, 2023 and 30 March, 2023, and the Stage 2 workshop held on 10 May, 2023, as part of the agreed framework of the Committee Review Process.

The report asked Members to consider recommendations and agree future improvement actions. An update on the status of all actions as at May 2023 was provided in Appendix 1 to the report. A copy of the slides as discussed at the Stage 2 Workshop was attached as Appendix 2.

The report concluded by explaining that should the Committee not be assured and agree to progress to a Stage 3 Investigation an investigation group would need to be identified. An investigation group could be the whole Committee, a smaller group of members or a member officer working group. This group would lead on the investigation and bring a report back for any decision to Communities Committee. The remit would be identified by the investigation group and a terms of reference would be agreed.

Following discussion, Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Baillie, moved that the report did not provide adequate assurance and that a Stage 3 Investigation take place to allow further exploration of the issues and identification of improvement actions.

As an amendment, Councillor Stirling, seconded by Councillor Walker, moved that the matter be deferred until the meeting of Committee on 7 September, 2023 for a

revised report, including information on the outcome of the ADP consideration of the draft Terms of Reference, and that in the meantime a report be submitted to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 advising of this.

Members of the Committee voted:

for the motion	(5)	Councillors Baillie, Durno, Joji, Kloppert, and Reynolds.
for the amendment	(8)	Councillors Adams, Beagrie, Brown, Smith, Stirling, Powell, Taylor and Walker.
absent from division	(1)	Councillor Payne.

The amendment was carried whereby the Committee **agreed** that the matter be deferred until the meeting of Committee on 7 September, 2023 for a revised report, including information on the outcome of the ADP consideration of the draft Terms of Reference, and that in the meantime a report be submitted to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 6 July, 2023 advising of this.

19. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ABERDEENSHIRE COMMUNITIES: UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee of 16 June, 2022 (Item 4) and 22 September, 2022 (Item 16) there was circulated a report by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which provided an update on Mental Health Services available to Aberdeenshire Communities.

The report aimed to reflect how Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Aberdeenshire Council and other key partners were continuing to work together for the benefit of people in Aberdeenshire communities to support and improve mental health and wellbeing. The report outlined services and supports that were available, in addition to the statutory services comprising Aberdeenshire Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) and Mental Health Officer service. The report highlighted some of the excellent work done in supporting people in their communities.

The report concluded by highlighting that many of the projects referred to in the report had been developed as a direct result of the Aberdeenshire Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 to 2024, which was approved by the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the work that has been undertaken by all partners in this regard and that an update be provided to Committee in 12 months.

20. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2017 TO 2022

There was circulated a joint report dated 4 May, 2023, by the Directors of Business Services and Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on the progress of the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme, taking into consideration factors impacting on the programme, and requested the Committee to acknowledge and consider the programme.

The report explained as background that four contractors were appointed to undertake multiple upgrades to the housing portfolio to deliver the overarching Housing Improvement Programme. The report also highlighted that the construction industry remained volatile, with supply chain issues and labour shortages impacting on the programme with significant consequences. This uncertainty in the market was anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future. Council officers therefore continued to monitor the situation regularly seeking deliverable solutions and taking all practical mitigation measures available to reduce disruption with contractors remaining agile in delivering a very fluid programme of work.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the current position with regard to progress on the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) for Year 3 and Year 4; and
- (2) note the estimated spend profile for the Financial Year 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 for the Housing Improvement Programme (HIP).

21. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME TWO 2024 TO 2028

There was circulated a joint report dated 3 May, 2023, by the Directors of Business Services and Environment and Infrastructure Services, which provided an update on the progress of the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme Two (HIP2) and sought approval for the cost estimate and for proceeding to tender for the works.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) endorse the position with regard to progress towards the delivery of the Housing Improvement Programme Two (HIP2) for 2024 to 2028;
- (2) approve the cost estimates, inclusive of Property Costs, as detailed within the report in Appendix 2, and for proceeding to tender works for the period 2024 to 2028; and
- (3) that the final scope and resultant cost of the programme be subject to the outcome of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review.

22. HARD FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (HARD FM) UPDATE

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services which requested that the Committee consider the performance of FES FM Limited, the term contractor, under the Hard Facilities Management contract and the introduction of the new Hard FM Minor Works Framework/Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the performance of FES Limited under the Hard Facilities Management contract; and
- (2) note the performance of the Minor Works Framework/Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

23. SUPPLEMENTARY LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT PLAN – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

There was circulated a report dated 17 March, 2023, by the Director of Education and Children's Services requesting that the Committee consider a revised Procurement Approval Form (PAF) and spend plan for the improvement work planned for Stonehaven Leisure Centre, which had previously been agreed (at a lower cost level) by the Kincardine and Mearns Committee at the meeting on June 14, 2022, then in principle again at the meeting on May 16, 2023.

The Committee **agreed** to: -

- (1) approve the Supplementary Procurement Plan, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, and the revised Procurement Approval Form, detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, which confirmed an increased project cost to a level detailed in the report.
- (2) note that, in the event that budget could not be identified, the Communities Committee may make recommendations to Full Council to agree an uplift in the Capital Plan to meet any deficit.

24. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2023/24 – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

There was circulated a report dated 19 November, 2023, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which requested that the Committee agree the detail of the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) Procurement Work Plan 2023/24 and implement the Direction from the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to procure items included in the Procurement Work Plan.

The report explained that the Work Plan had been approved on behalf of IJB by the Chief Officer of AHSCP following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of IJB and the Chief Executives of Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian. A direction to the Council to deliver the works laid out in the Work Plan was also approved.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the details included in the Special Urgency - Use of Specific Delegations to Chief Officer document approved on behalf of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 19 May 2023, which was detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) implement the direction from the Integration Joint Board to procure the items in the Work Plan (Social Care); and
- (3) not reserve the approval of Business Cases/Award Reports for items on the Work Plan with a value of £50,000 up to £1,000,000 and the award of contract with a value over £1,000,000.